

IV. *A Letter from Mr. Jos. Nelson, concerning the Effects of the abovementioned Storm of Thunder and Lightning at Colchester.*

Colchester, July 26, 1708.

S I R,

HAVING taken notice of the Strange Effects of Thunder you Published for the Months of *January* and *February* last, the like was strange in this Town of *Colchester*. On *July 16 die Veneris 1708*, about Eight of the Clock at Night (the greater part of the Afternoon being Cloudy, but more thick toward Night, with Thunder at a distance for above an Hour before, and much Lightning) I heard a Thunder-Crack so loud, as if it were close to me, (the like I never heard before;) at which time the Thunder and Lightning broke into Mr. *Josbua King's* House, at the Sign of the *Hart* in *Maudlin-street* in *Colchester*, beginning at the South side thereof at the Gable-end, breaking several Roof-Tiles, and near 20 other, as at *c* in the *Figure*, continuing its Course Perpendicular, and in a strait Line (the only Motion that seems consistent with such Violence, which it seems was otherwise in the Gentlewomans House in *Ireland*) it went into a Lean-to, and lighting on a bunching out of the Wall at *d*, it entered into the Strong-Beer Buttery thro' the Laths, and forced a Cork out of the lower Tap-hole of a Butt, to the Loss of some Gallons of Beer; in its way at *a*, it shiver'd a Stud about three Inches Square, so that one side remain'd nail'd to Laths, yet not much thicker than a Lath, and also brake
it.

it in two as if it were a Tobacco-Pipe. Below the Beam at *b*, it clave or split a Stud, about 4 Inches square, several Foot down, which is there standing; this was from its violent razing on the outside. At the time of this Blow the said Mr. *King* was in the Lean-too, and thought he should have been destroyed with the Lightning, but received no hurt; he smelt a strong Sulphurous Scent. It cast the broken Wall divers Rood with the Violence. There was some little damage done to *Alhallow's Church* about the same time in the said Town.

But that which was most lamentable, divers Boats were carrying Persons from *Harwich* to *Ipswich* on the *Orwell*; the violence of the Thunder and Lightning kill'd four dead immediately, made a Lad run Mad, and wounded the rest that were in that Boat, which were twelve Persons, and melted a Watch and the Chain all of a Lump which was in a Dead Man's Pocket; this was about the same time of the aforementioned. Mr. *Thomas Holborow* of *Colchester*, Goldsmith, was Eye-Witness to this: being in one of the Boats, he smelt such a Scent of Sulphur as he could not bear. This was about eighteen Miles N. E. of *Colchester*, and one Mile S. E. it was no more violent than an ordinary Storm.

